GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1079
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2001
NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON JUDICIAL REFORMS
AJAY CHAKRABORTY

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a `National Task Force on Judicial Reforms` ofthe Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) had looked into theproblem of pending cases in various courts and submitted a report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main recommendations made therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) On the eve of a National Seminar held by Confederation of IndianIndustry in 1996, a report of the Task Force led by Shri C.K.Birla on Judicial Reforms was presented to the then Minister of State for Law, Justice and Company Affairs, as the Chief Guest in the Seminar.

(b) The salient features of the report include, inter-alia, timely filling up of vacancies of judges, increase in the number of judges, increase in the retirement age of High Court Judges, streamlining the procedure, rationalization of courtholidays/vacations, rationalising of court fees to make it more realistic, curtailment of adjournments, accountability of executive officers in revenue matters, accountability of judges, improvement in service conditions of judges, training and orientation of lawyers, etc.

(c) The recommendations cover a wide canvas of judicial reforms. Implementation of Judicial reforms is an ongoing and continuous process. The Law Commission and various Committees constituted in this regard have suggested a number of measures on judicial reforms. Various measures have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of cases. These include filling up of vacancies of judges, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/tribunals, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates, etc.

The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999 has been passedb y Parliament which, inter alia, include restriction on adjournments upto three to a party in a suit, time bound procedure at certain stages of the case. The relevant provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999are awaiting Government notification. Steps have also been taken to improve the service conditions of judges/judicial officers by the Central Government and the State Governments.